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FEB 1952

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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## INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Expectations Concerning New Communist  
Party PurgesDATE OF  
INFO.PLACE  
ACQUIRED

DATE DISTR. 26 June 1952

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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1. There are indications that a new purge is due in the Czechoslovak Communist Party, probably in August or September 1952. They include the following:
  - a. A great stir has been created in Party circles by the arrest of Zdenek Hejzlar, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Czechoslovak Youth Union (CSM), who was considered one of the stalwarts of the younger Party group and had been mentioned as a possible successor to Rudolf Slansky. Hejzlar is to be accused of Titoism. Party leaders now appear convinced that younger Party circles must be purged of "reactionary elements".
  - b. The recent removal of Deputy Premier Jan Sevcik indicated that a Slovak party purge is under way. Sevcik was a pioneer in establishing the Slovak Recovery Party (Slovenska obrada) which served as a Communist Party tool in Slovakia immediately after the war. Many victims of the present Slovak party purge are pre-war Communists.
  - c. On May Day 1952 the State Prizes, equivalent to Stalin Prizes in the USSR, were awarded mostly on the basis of professional technical competence, unlike past years when many prizes were given to ardent Communists belonging to the working class.<sup>1</sup>
2. The Czechoslovak Communist Party will undoubtedly be greatly reduced in numbers, but the selection of purge victims is not yet known, the direction of the new purge depending partly on the progress of the conflict between Klement Gottwald and Antonin Zapotocky. Gottwald and Zapotocky are still competing for power; the issue is linked to the struggle between Malenkov and Molotov in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Zapotocky is considered the chief Moscow man in Czechoslovakia, but it is not known if he has Malenkov's active support. Zapotocky may replace Gottwald if his health forces Gottwald to retire. In such a case, Zapotocky is likely to be succeeded in his present position as Premier by either Professor Jan Mukarovsky, Rector

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of Charles University in Prague, or Jan Harus, Minister of State Control, or Professor Frantisek Stoll of the Political Science College (Hochschule) in Prague.

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1.  Comment: This reflects the current swing to the right in the Czechoslovak Communist Party. Since Czech attainment of Moscow-determined goals requires the cooperation of technicians who are opposed or lukewarm to Communism, technical ability now counts more than Party loyalty.

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